

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 07127 150237Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

SP-02 IO-06 PA-01 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 /044 W

-----034641 152246Z /20

R 140940Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6333

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

/AMEMBASSY MANILA 6538

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 7127

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, SRV, MY

SUBJECT: SRV AND ASEAN

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 6788, B . KUALA LUMPUR 7103

1. FURING MY CALL JULY 14 ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING U.S.- ASEAN DIALOGUE (REPORTED SEPTTEL), I SOUNDED OUT ZAKARIA REGARDING RECENT SRV AND SOVIET MOVES TOWARD ASEAN. ZAKARIA SAID THAT DESPITE ALL OF THE PRESS SPECULATION THE ONLY SPECIFIC APPROACH THAT THE SRV HAS MADE HAS BEEN ITS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ZOPFAN BILATERALLY WITH ASEAN GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THAT HE ASSUMES VIETNAM'S MOVE IN THIS REGARD RESULTS FROM "EVENTS OUTSIDE THE ASEAN REGION". HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, IN ANY CASE, MALAYSIA CONSIDERED THE SRV APPROACH TO BE A POSITIVE STEP SINCE HERETOFORE THE SRV HAD BEEN ANTAGONISTIC TO ASEAN. MALAYSIA AND ITS ASEAN PARTNERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN READY TO DISCUSS ZOPFAN WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES, AND NOW  
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PAGE 02 KUALA 07127 150237Z

VIETNAM IS WILLING TO DO SO. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO SPECIFIC SRV PROPOSAL FOR TALKS HAS BEEN MADE TO MALAYSIA OR AS FAR AS HE KNEW TO OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS. HE REITERATED NEVERTHELESS THAT MALAYSIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS VIETNAM'S VIEWS ON ZOPFAN. HE ASSUMED THAT SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER DURING HIS VISITS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES. HE ALSO SAID

THAT PHAN HIEN MIGHT COME TO KUALA LUMPUR DURING HIS PRESENT TRIP, ALTHOUGH NOTHING DEFINITE HAD YET BEEN ARRANGED.

2. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, I ASKED ZAKARIA WHETHER HE THOUGHT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THE ASEAN-U.S. DIALOGUE. HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY, SAYING THAT THE SUBJECTS OF THE ASEAN-U.S. DIALOGUE HAVE LONG BEEN SET, THAT THE DIALOGUE WAS ON COURSE AND BASED ON THE INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ASEAN-U.S. RELATIONSHIP. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY TO ME AS TO MY REACTION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAMESE ATTITUDES TOWARD ASEAN, I SAID THAT I WAS PERSONALLY SKEPTICAL THAT THEY WERE SINCERELY MOTIVATED, BUT THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND ASEAN'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE CULTIVATING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES.  
MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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